

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 /068 W
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R 031636Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1024
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

USMTN ALSO FOR MISSION

OSOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EEC, IT
SUBJ: MINAG VIEWS ON AGRICULTURAL TRADE ISSUES

1. ON MAR. 3 ECMIN AND AGATT CALLED ON ROMUALDO MORONI,
DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC PROTECTION OF AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS AND CHIEF OF OFFICE OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTRY
OF AGRICULTURE, TO REVIEW LATEST ITALIAN THINKING ON
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AGRICULTURAL TRADE ISSUES. WHILE MORONI ACCEPTED VIEW
THAT FEW ISSUES WOULD BE SOLVED PRIOR TO FRENCH ELECTIONS,
HE ASSERTED THAT MUCH USEFUL DISCUSSION WAS TAKING PLACE
INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF COMMUNITY.

2. TURNING FIRST TO MTN, MORONI INDICATED STRONG
ITALIAN INTEREST IN OBTAINING INCREASE IN EC REDUCED-

DUTY FEEDER CATTLE QUOTA OF 200,000 HEAD PER YEAR. MORONI ASSERTED THAT SMALL QUOTA (ITALY IMPORTS ABOUT 1.5 MILLION FEEDER CATTLE) FORCED ITALY TO DEPEND LARGELY ON HIGH-PRICED IMPORTS FROM FRANCE, WHEREAS ITALIAN IMPORTERS BELIVED THERE WERE GOOD PROSPECTS FOR COMPETITIVE IMPORTS FROM U.S. AND CANADA AT REDUCED DUTY. ACCORDING TO MORONI SINCE THIS ISSUE PRESUMABLY OF INTEREST TO U.S., WE SHOULD CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF SEEKING TO MAKE THIS SUBJECT OF US-EC NEGOTIATIONS RATHER THAN PURELY INTRA-EC MATTER. HE ADDED THAT ITALY HAD RAISED SUBJECT AT 113 COMMITTEE MEETING AND WOULD ALSO DO SO WITH USDEL MTN.

3. RE GRAINS NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA, MORONI STATED THAT ITALY DISAGREED WITH EC POSITION THAT FEED GRAINS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN AGREEMENT. WHILE ITALY COULD ACCEPT INCLUSION OF BARLEY, IT SAW NO REASON TO INCLUDE CORN. SINCE EC WOULD REMAIN DEFICIT AREA, THIS WOULD ONLY RESULT IN BUILDING UP STOCKS AND RAISING PRICES. WE WERE UNSUCCESSFUL IN ELICING PREDICTION RE TIMING AND OUTCOME OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. MORONI DID NOT EXPECT ANY UNUSUAL PROBLEMS IN OBTAINING AGREEMENT ON EC 1978-79 PRICE LEVEL. HE AGREED THAT PRICES WOULD PROBABLY BE SET IN GENERAL RANGE PROPOSED BY COMMISSION. IN RESPONSE TO OUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUESTIONS, HE CONCEDED THERE WAS POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER REVALUATION OF THE GREEN LIRA, BUT HE ADDED THAT ANY REVALUATION WOULD BE SMALL.

5. OF GREATER APPARENT CONCERN TO MORONI WAS FATE OF MEDITERRANEAN PACKAGE. HE COMMENTED THAT ITALY DID NOT LIKE PACKAGE, SINGLING OUT WINE PROPOSAL FOR CRITICISM, AND ASSERTED THAT ITALY WOULD USE WHATEVER LEVERAGE IT HAD ON OTHER ISSUES TO SEEK TO IMPROVED DEAL ON MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCTS. HOLMES

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NNN

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